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### The Respect Due to a Great Office.

THE SUN has been far from expecting to make a personal appeal of any description whatsoever upon any occasion imaginable to Mr. EDWARD H. HARRIMAN. Nevertheless, it is the unforeseen that happens; and we find ourselves impelled by considerations that seem of high importance to join with other judicious persons in imploring Mr. HARRIMAN to desist for the sake of this nation's good name and respectable appearance before the eyes of the world. We ask him to refrain from pursuing further the solution of the direct issue of veracity with the President of the United States which the President has raised.

Not only Mr. HARRIMAN, the individual most immediately concerned, but also all others having any relation either to the main issue already referred to or to the collateral questions involved can well afford in the public interest to allow this deplorable controversy to die out of existence, and, as far as possible, out of the memory of mankind. We are not thinking of the merits of the case, as presented in the insulting accusation brought against Mr. HARRIMAN by Mr. ROOSEVELT. We are contemplating only the scandal, the spectacular indecency, the hideous immorality, in the broadest sense of the word, of continuing a contest which, even if it could be brought to a triumphant conclusion by Mr. HARRIMAN and his partisans, would result in exhibiting the President of the United States in a light fit to bring shame to the cheeks and sorrow to the heart of every honest citizen of the republic.

It is impossible to separate the man from the office, and to the Presidential office, incarnate in its occupant for the time being, there attach certain privileges or immunities of a peculiar character rendered necessary by public policy. This is certainly so in the view of the enlightened public opinion, if not yet of the written Federal law. Every good and true American recognizes the obligations of respect due the office, whatever he may think of the man holding the office; and if it be said, on the other hand, that this conventional respect cannot be entirely a one-sided affair, that the necessary convention puts certain responsibilities upon the incumbent as well as upon others, and that popular respect is subject to forfeiture on occasion, our reply is that short of an impeachable offense, there is no appeal from the President's own conception of what is proper conduct on his part—except an appeal to his own conscience.

Moreover, the time may come when Mr. E. H. HARRIMAN, to whom this suggestion of patriotic self-sacrifice is particularly addressed, or any other insulted American who has swallowed his natural wrath and remained silent under immense provocation from the White House, may be infinitely glad, both as a citizen and as a psychopathologist, that he was strong and tolerant enough for forbearance.

### Should the Hague Congress Forbid Closed Seas?

OF late some British and Continental newspapers have discussed seriously the report that Germany is trying to secure from Denmark an agreement to close the entrance to the Baltic in war time against the fighting ships and merchant vessels of belligerents. Although we attach but little importance to the report, the discussion of it may prove useful if it suggests the expediency of obtaining from the next peace congress at The Hague an international convention by which the closing of the Mediterranean, the British Channel and other similar gateways shall be prohibited.

Even if Germany, for the purpose of providing a haven of safety for her navy in the event of war with a superior sea power, would now like to break an international compact to which Prussia was a party she could not expect to persuade the Danes to comply with her wish, for by doing so they would be guilty of glaring perfidy and bring upon themselves the wrath of the greater part of Europe. It is now about half a century since Denmark's agreement to abolish the Sound Dues forever and under no circumstances to attempt to close the Baltic was embodied in a treaty to which all the other European Powers were signatories. A violation of that treaty would not for a moment be contemplated by the Danish sovereign or the Danish people, whose sole desire is to maintain absolute neutrality and perpetuate the peaceful conditions under which since the termination of the Schleswig-Holstein war they have enjoyed so much prosperity.

It seems to have escaped notice, however, that since the formation of the *entente cordiale* between Great Britain and France it has become quite as easy for those countries to block the Strait of Dover as it ever was for the Danes to close the Sound. The vast preponderance of the naval forces of Great Britain and France would compel Germany's warships and merchant vessels, if they wanted to reach the Atlantic, to pursue the circuitous and dangerous course around Scotland and Ireland which proved fatal to the Spanish Armada. For this reason we may take for granted that Germany would eagerly support at The Hague a proposal to prohibit an

attempt by any Power or combination of Powers to make of the British Channel a mere *clausum*. We may be sure that the same position would be taken by Holland and Belgium and by the four Powers of northeastern Europe, Russia, Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

It is equally obvious that since the establishment of their cordial understanding Great Britain and France might at any moment seal up the Mediterranean at both ends, thus debarring Italy, Austria-Hungary, Greece and Turkey from access to the Red Sea or the Atlantic. It is even probable that the same result could be effected by Great Britain single handed, controlling as she does the Strait of Gibraltar and the Suez Canal. Nor is there much doubt that recourse would be made to such a measure should France, Russia and Great Britain ever find themselves in conflict with the Triple Alliance. If the Mediterranean and the British Channel were closed simultaneously the commerce of Italy and Austria-Hungary as well as that of Germany would be threatened with suffocation. It is certain, then, that both of the last named Powers would warmly advocate an international declaration against closed seas.

No less patent is it that when the Panama Canal is finished the importance of such a gate to the Pacific will be more fully recognized than it is today. By a seizure of that waterway a belligerent could bar its opponents from commerce with the shores of the Pacific, except by the Suez Canal or the Cape of Good Hope or Cape Horn.

In view of these possibilities it would seem expedient that at The Hague one of the great Powers should propose an international agreement providing for the permanent neutralization not only of the Danish Sound, which already has been secured, but also of the Strait of Dover, the Strait of Gibraltar, the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb, the straits traversable by vessels bound from the Indian Ocean to the China Sea, the strait between New Zealand and New Guinea, the entrances to the Sea of Japan, and lastly, the Suez and Panama canals.

### Has He Been Converted?

Somewhere in these United States are mighty piles of buttons adorned with the proto-Cushite lineaments of Uncle JOSEPHUS CANNON. Is anybody wearing one of those buttons, or are they reserved for a more convenient season? They began to beam upon a grateful world some time last summer; and collectors prized them, though they are a little trying to the hater of conspicuousness. The Joe Cannon medal is rather larger than Mr. BRYAN's great white dollar. Besides the Cannonian face it carries a red, white and blue streamer and this legend, said to have been said by a Greater than JOSEPH when the latter paid his devotions in the shrine of Oyster Bay:

"Mr. Speaker, you will be the next President."

With what joy did millions read the motto. Why, citizens of twenty-five or thirty States, some of them not Government clerks, gathered rapturously in Washington to "launch" the button and the boom. Why was that official sign taken down? Did the Cannonites fear that the putative father of the legend would deny it? Did they foresee and cover before an all too possible hurling match of lies and liars?

That beauty button haunts us yet, but its truth has been blasted, its motto doubted. It seems to have been withdrawn from circulation. Mr. CANNON has received the "indorsement" of his State, in spite of which Mount Fairbanks is distinctly visible on a farm there. In the hot spell Mr. CANNON assured the country that he was not an "active" candidate. Since then he has been doing light and heavy gymnastics by land and sea. He has shown himself fleet of foot than the fleet-foot kid. No flying fish, humming bird or mosquito has been more active. It is admitted that he is younger than the youngest and spryer than the spryest. Of course, he has not been "candidating" in his Caribbean progress. But his friskiness, ebullience and energy guarantee his constitution. He is no mollycoddle, no flincher. If the country wants another President in the high athletic line, the Illinois Chicken is the man.

A new boost is given to this old boom by an able hand that looks queer enough in such a business. The Hon. SAMUEL WALKER McCALL, of Massachusetts, a convinced tariff reviser, has been one of the former Speaker's shipmates in his recent voyages and discoveries. Mr. McCALL expresses his "hope" that Mr. CANNON will be the next Republican candidate for President. After testifying to the old boy's juvenility and so on, Mr. McCALL hints that that tender juvenile has passed from a Sauline to a Pauline state of mind in regard to the great Republican dogma:

"As to reducing the tariff, I am satisfied that he would declare himself in favor of retention, which shall take place immediately after the Presidential election."

If this hope be well founded, who shall despair of Turks and infidels? We see Colonel ALBERT CLARKE preaching free trade and JOHN DAZELL howling for a tariff for revenue only. Last summer Mr. CANNON was standing as pat as the everlasting hills. In effect he told his Congress district and the rest of the country that protection was prosperity. The Dingley tariff was not absolutely sacred and unchangeable. It could be revised "when revision will do more good than harm to the great mass of the people." When will that time come? Revision, being an unsettling and dangerous business, must tend to produce disaster. Since prosperity always goes with protection, any pruning of the latter must injure the former. Indeed, if we follow Uncle JOSEPH and he follows himself, it is impossible to believe that the tariff can ever be revised without doing more harm than good to the mass of the people.

Mr. CANNON's clear and instructive opinions about a minimum and maximum tariff must have been a consolation to certain delegates of the Foreign Trade Convention who had the happiness of hearing them last January:

"There are many people who are for a minimum and maximum tariff. I have some in my mind's eye now. There are some of them in my State."

very clever people—and I do not speak disrespectfully of them. When you talk about a minimum tariff that affords ample protection to American industries, and that you would make a maximum higher, those of them who are not Christians would say 'damn' and those of them who are would shake their heads. So you see there is a great deal to think about regarding this maximum and minimum tariff."

A maximum of standpatting with a minimum of revision, and that to come nobody knows when, has seemed to be Mr. CANNON's position as to the tariff. If he has seen a new light, Mr. McCALL must have held the candle. Was the ex-Speaker's time on shipboard not all flattered in jiggling and singing and flirting, and family story telling in the smoking room? Did he pace the deck in the silent midnight watches, listening attentively while SAM McCALL labored with his hidebound old protectionist soul? In the small hours did Joe and Sam split a bottle of mineral water—in the former's stateroom and hold high argument of principles and schedules and votes?

Perhaps. Nobody doubts Mr. McCALL's ability as a missionary, but there are few tougher old sinners than the Danville athlete.

### Commissioner Bingham's Task.

Correcting of mysterious "typographical errors," to which important legislative bills appear to be peculiarly exposed, will necessitate the repassage of the Bingham police bill by the Assembly. Then it must come to the Mayor for his approval or veto. There is no doubt of his action on it, for he has already declared himself in favor of it. From the City Hall the measure will go to the Governor. No one has suggested that he may veto it. When his signature is attached to the bill it will go into effect and THEODORE A. BINGHAM will possess a power over the police force of this city that none of his predecessors has had.

Commissioner BINGHAM has never said that this bill would enable him to put a stop to all the abuses that exist among the men under his command. He has said that it would give him authority without which the improvement of conditions was impossible. However, the public will expect an appreciable bracing up of the force, a reconstruction of the detective service and a general readjustment of men to duties that will have visible and satisfactory results. Probably the public will expect too much, and it is not unlikely that the Commissioner will hear some severe criticism and sharp jeers before he is a year older.

Commissioner BINGHAM has not been working for an easy life in advocating the bill that bears his name. He has deliberately set out to make his work more difficult and to increase his real responsibility. He has not been able to carry the bill through the Legislature without embittering old and powerful enemies and creating new ones. His foes will not hesitate to discredit him whenever opportunity offers, and if at the expiration of a month after the signing of the bill he has not rebuilt the force from top to bottom he is pretty sure to be denounced by worthy persons whose noble aspirations overbalance their knowledge of actual conditions.

One Answer.  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—You asked yesterday, "What is the present attitude of the disinterested public toward Charles E. Hughes?"

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### The Servant's Home.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—I read last Sunday's SUN of a "new" scheme by which American home life is to be revolutionized. A gentleman has been and is being run on this plan. In which there are about thirty apartments. Each apartment consists of four to six rooms, including bath and kitchen. The service is entirely on the American plan, and the apartments are only rented on lease.

I do not think that in matters of housing or living we need a foreigner to teach us, for from what I have seen and am being run on this plan, one of our own people is doing it. There are not many people who know of the above apartment, yet it contains all the features (and many more) that our friends abroad are doing so well. After having examined the apartments, apartment hotels and hotels of this city our visitor will no doubt go back to his own country a wiser and better man.

NEW YORK, April 2. HAZARD C. PHILLIPS.

### "Lemons" on the Stage.

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The first performance of "Lemons" was given at the New Fifth Avenue Theatre, New York, January 15, 1907, by Augustin Daly's company. The cast was as follows: Jack Parnell, Charles Coghlan, Lord Loftis, John Brougham, Major Connersby, James Lewis, Beattie Stark, Henry Crisp, Emma Loftis, Belle Wharton, Annie, Carrie, Victor, Drums, F. Hadden, John F. Bennett, Myrtle Stark, Fanny Davenport, Mrs. Stark, Mrs. G. H. Gilbert, Sydney Cowell, Bertha, Emily Hugi.

The piece had fifty-six performances at this time. The first performance of the lemon gag was by Col. T. Alston Brown, in his "History of the New York Stage," records a performance of "Lemons," at the Grand Opera House, Theatre, New York, November 18, 1874. This would make the lemon gag almost thirty-two years old. Where did it originate?

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—What opportunities are given at present to claimants of the gift of second sight and other occult powers? Cannot some one of the well advertised fraternity discover the whereabouts of the missing child, indeed, of the missing children about whom many hearts are aching?

Surely the motives of humanity and self-interest would naturally combine to what the mysterious faculty if it exists at all.

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### By Automobile to Norfolk.

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NEW YORK, April 3. INOTER.

Relief.  
We've hearkened to the President,  
We've read what he has written  
And waded through his messages  
Till with exhaustion smitten.

We've listened to the Grand Young Man  
From Indiana spouting  
Like sawdust pouring out a dam,  
Beyond all hope of routing.

We've hearkened to Bryan's silver tongue  
With wearisome endeavor,  
For men may come and men may go  
But he goes on forever.

The telegraph has hoisted rates,  
We're not at all appreciative  
But rather welcome any scheme  
To make words more expensive.

MCLANDERSON WILSON.

Government would present a bill in which the right of political and administrative voting by women would be recognized.

In a despatch of the date of March 30 from the seat of war in Chicago—it was the last day of the municipal campaign—a lament was raised that the very important question of improved traction had been almost lost sight of in a pandemonium of scandalous personal abuse. The air was thick with the violence of such epithets as "liar," "perjurer," "thief," "grafter" and "human polio."

When the voters were counted it was found that Judge DUNNE, in whose behalf the artillery of billingsgate was exploded by practised hands, had been defeated and immediate municipal ownership had been rejected. Mayor DUNNE charges his overthrow to the corrupt use of money. Such is the baneful power of association. What- ever illusions he may indulge concerning the future of municipal ownership, of which he made himself the prophet and protagonist, he cannot deceive himself about the cause of his reverse at the polls by the narrow margin of 13,121 votes in a total of 335,891. The traction ordinances which Mayor DUNNE vetoed were approved by a majority of 33,128. Doubtless the billingsgate which made the atmosphere of Chicago so hard to breathe as the campaign went on increased the vote for a practicable solution of the transportation problem, but Judge DUNNE now knows what the unholy alliance cost him personally.

As a howling optimist among Panama Canal investigators, the palm must be awarded to Representative HENRY T. RAINY, of Illinois, who spent eight days on the Isthmus as a Democratic sleuth. Mr. RAINY found the diggers absorbed in the job and oblivious of the climate. He says:

"The day I left crew No. 201, with a ninety-five ton shovel, took 2,000 square yards of dirt, which had been and is being run on this plan. In which there are about thirty apartments. Each apartment consists of four to six rooms, including bath and kitchen. The service is entirely on the American plan, and the apartments are only rented on lease."

And we venture to say the steam shovelers were not stimulated to break records by the presence of Mr. RAINY—it was all in the day's work. Not a case of sickness on the Isthmus, says this observer who came, and saw only one mosquito, and conquered his scepticism. Even the climate was ideal, and no doubt it is in March. He could find nothing to caviar at but the fresh second-hand cans and diggers. Some of them didn't like it. There is hardly a boarding house in the temperate zone without its kickers. It may be that the commission has not yet mastered the meat storage problem. The meat arrives sweet and sound, according to Mr. RAINY, but the climate soon spoils it. We think there can be no "embalmed beef" scandal impending, in spite of his misgivings. In the case of other heinous grafting, but he is not positive about that. Mr. RAINY left the Isthmus a better American than he was when he landed to look for ammunition for one of those partisan broadsides which he is so fond of delivering from his seat in the House.

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### AFRICAN HOMES FOR GERMANS.

Dr. Hermann Paasche, vice-president of the Reichstag, went to German East Africa to find his opinion of it on what he saw himself. Since his return home he has written a book, "Deutsch Ostafrika," which is attracting great attention in Germany and affords substantial support to the colonial policy and its friends. In detail Dr. Paasche criticizes the colonial policy in many respects. He points out defects and weaknesses that require correction, but on the whole approves the colonial ambitions and enterprises of the empire.

German East Africa has been written up and down, but recent testimony is all in the way. The last word is by Dr. Paasche, who says there is opportunity to develop a very strong colony in that vast region.

He says there is room for hundreds of thousands of German farmers there. The highlands, where temperate conditions and a comparatively temperate climate exist, are very extensive not only in West Usambara but also far and wide around Kilimanjaro and on the plains and wooded slopes between the great mountains and Victoria Nyanza. Most of the European crops, including the cereals and many of the vegetables and fruits, are successfully raised. He has talked with German settlers who have cleared a little land and have begun farming on a small scale, and they have told him of their pioneer hardships, but say that the soil is very rich, timber is in abundance and their own labor and a very little money are all that is needed for the erection of their dwellings. They can raise crops the year around and produce all the food they require, and clothing is a small matter in the warm climate. They are going to bring out their families, and friends from home intend to join them.

Dr. Paasche says there is no doubt that many thousands of German peasants, settled in the large areas that are well adapted for white colonization, may establish themselves in independence and comfort and provide for the necessities of life far more easily than they could in Germany. The struggle for existence will not be so intense. He believes that from sixty to eighty acres are enough or more than enough for each small farmer. Small holdings will support them well and they have not the capital for plantation enterprises. He criticises the land regulations of the Government. Settlers are required to bring funds amounting to \$500 to secure a concession of land, which is more than the small farmer needs, and not enough to develop a plantation. The transportation charges from Germany are excessive. The Government is encouraging pastoral rather than agricultural pursuits, and Dr. Paasche gives many reasons for believing that the best course for the peasant is to make a little home and secure from a few acres around it the varied products that will give sustenance to his family. He fortifies the conclusion he has reached by many opinions of men prominent in the work of the agricultural experiment stations, the land surveys and in the exploration service of the colony.

Tanga now has the only railroad in operation from the coast into the interior, though the line from Dar-es-Salaam far inland is pushing forward at the rate of half a mile a day. Dr. Paasche says it is astonishing to see the rapid development of plantations along the Tanga railroad. The rich woodlands are yielding more and more tribute every year. Native fibres and dyestuffs, grain, oil, fruits, sisal hemp, copra, coffee and mangrove bark are all becoming important in the exports on German steamers. The shipping facilities are already inadequate at Tanga, and the Government should lose no time in adding to them. Flourishing rubber plantations, covering 45,000 acres, will be in a few years to add 1,000 tons of rubber to the annual exports, and rubber planting is extending every year. He gives statistics which show remarkably rapid progress for most of the plantation industries, and predicts that in five years Tanga will annually supply at least 40,000 tons of products for shipment, and very much more when the railroad is extended to Kilimanjaro. The needs of commerce between Tanga and Dar-es-Salaam are already outstripping the facilities for shipment supplied at these ports.

Dr. Paasche's book thus presents German East Africa, in its industrial aspects, as a colony of enormous value, greatly underestimated in the days of early struggle, but now proved to be worthy of every effort and expenditure required to turn it to the best account. It is not surprising that the book is making a deep impression, for its author is a leader in the Socialist party. Liberal party is at the same time conservative by temperament, and before he came into eminence as a statesman was already widely known as a university professor whose specialty was the field of economics.

### Our Trade With Panama.

We are told by the Bureau of Statistics that our trade with the republic of Panama now amounts to about \$1,000,000 a year—\$1,300,000 a month—or about \$100,000 a month more than in 1904. Here are the figures for the last three calendar years:

	Exports to Panama	Imports from Panama
1904	1,229,471	1,448,686
1905	1,229,471	1,448,686
1906	1,229,471	1,448,686

Summary for 1906:  
Exports to Panama \$1,229,471  
Imports from Panama 1,448,686  
Total trade for year \$2,678,157  
The leading exports of importance are named, lumber, passenger and freight locomotives, pipes and fittings, soft coal, lard, cotton manufactures (except cloth), boots and shoes, clothing, hats, tinware, steel rails, vegetables, cement, chemicals, drugs and medicines, timber, malt liquors, iron sheets and plates, builders' hardware, brass and its manufactures, illuminating oil, tobacco manufactures, butter, soap, fresh beef, hams, milk, rice, manufactures, sugar, fish, eggs, fruits and nuts, wool manufactures, glass and glassware, cheese, milk, canned goods, sewing machines, typewriters, and about \$5,000,000 worth of other goods too numerous to mention.

Panama chiefly sends us, in order of importance as named, Indian rubber, hides and skins, agricultural machinery, coffee, hats and materials for hats.

Presumably the manufactures of iron and steel which we send are mainly for use in the canal work, but fully 80 per cent. of the long list of staples and drinkables on our list of exports to Panama is for the use of the natives of Panama or the foreign labor employed in canal construction. That portion therefore may fairly and properly be considered as an addition to our export trade. It is the same to our producers and manufacturers as if our home population and consumption had increased to that extent.

Our exports to Panama are keeping up because for the seven months ended January they amounted to \$7,700,000. Imports from Panama in that period reached \$6,000,000.

For a republic only three years old Panama is doing exceedingly well.

### British Railway Earnings in 1906.

According to the London *Statist*, 1906 was a good railway year in Great Britain. The nineteen principal companies had gross earnings of \$49,000,000, an increase of \$13,000,000 over 1905. Expense of operation was \$27,000,000, an increase of \$6,000,000, leaving a net gain of \$44,000,000.

The net result is small compared with the showing made by American railways, yet \$44,000,000 net earnings for these nineteen British companies, after paying some increase in wages and higher prices for coal and other material, is a really good showing for the properties interested, being not far from 50 per cent. of the gross earnings.

### Subliminal Explosives.

Mrs. Trout—What is the matter?  
Mother—Jack used to be this way before he was in the presence of the child. He said he would be planked if he went out.

ELMIRA, April 2.

Bath of Achilles.  
The mother of Achilles had just dipped him in the stream to make him invulnerable.

"I was afraid he might be a mollycoddle," she explained.

Thus we see how an Exalted Personage Influenced even prehistoric times.

Proof.  
Knicker—Do you think that man has come from the animal's cage? If there had been chickens before Adam's day there'd never have been a Garden.

### FRENCH MENUS AND STRIKES.

"Tell me what a man eats and I will tell you what he thinks" and "Let who will make the laws of a nation, provide for the making of books" are no negligible proverbs. The general admission that France leads the world in cookery implies a great many other admissions. In spite of the frequent accidents and troubles to which Providence has exposed that nation, who will deny that its outlook on life is often characterized by the delicate justness and sweet reasonableness of its menus? In what other country will you find those qualities so prevalent either at the board or in the conversation about the board? Where else, for instance, at the present day, is a calm, philosophic attitude toward war so general in all classes as it is in France? And where else has the most advanced working class opinion placed itself on record as being absolutely opposed to all methods tinged with violence, whether of a financial or a physical kind, in the struggle between labor and capital?

Such is the effect of the vote which was taken recently at the annual Congress of Independent Socialists at Lyons. Germany, one is tempted to say, turns out the raw material of socialist theories, but France imparts to them the fine temper requisite for their successful application in practice. The Lyons congress, with only two dissentient voices, condemned the principle of general strikes and all such forceful tactics as might naturally provoke an appeal to force from the other party. Hence, this decision is not on theoretical grounds, but on a dispassionate review of recent history. In the opinion of the congress experience proves conclusively that the true interests of the workingman can only suffer through any departure from intelligence. As between nations, so also between classes, the congress demands that neither brute force nor brute money shall decide disputes, but a reasonable arbitration based not on the ideal necessities but on the actual necessities of the moment.

The independent congress at Lyons represents the most genuinely unhampered working class intelligence in France, and also in some other countries. Before now the conflict between capital and labor has been approached by these practical thinkers in the same spirit, but never before has such a remarkable unanimity prevailed.